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District of Arizona*

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TWO GLENDALE MEN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR THEFT OF CHRISTMAS MAIL

PHOENIX – John Edward Bauer, 38, and Nathaniel Nathan Gatlin, 34, both of Glendale, Arizona, were sentenced to prison for 41 months and 30 months, respectively, in federal district court, by U.S. District Judge Neil V. Wake. In addition each man will be required to service 36 months on supervised release after the completion of their prison sentences and make restitution in the amount of \$6,533.33. Each defendant had previously pled guilty to a charge of Theft of United States Mail occurring between December 17 and 19, 2005 from mail boxes located at the Scottsdale and Surprise Arizona Post Office Stations.

Each defendant had been charged with violating the mail theft statute. Both defendants related in a guilty plea proceeding that he removed two large mail collection boxes that were bolted to the ground in front of United States Post Offices in Scottsdale and Surprise, Arizona. The thefts occurred on or about December 18 and 19, 2005. The mail boxes were driven to defendant Bauer's home where the men pried open the boxes. They were charged with theft of the contents of those mail boxes which included envelopes and packages containing cash, gift cards, checks, and Christmas items, that had been mailed to over 1500 persons. The two men were also accused of the destruction of the collection boxes and the mail.

A conviction for mail theft carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison, a \$250,000 fine or both. Federal District Court Judge Neil V. Wake noted as the reasons for his sentence that both men had extensive prior criminal records but that Bauer's criminal history, involving 8 misdemeanors and a felony conviction, required a greater sentence than his co-defendant.

The investigation in this case was conducted by Postal Inspectors from the United States Postal Inspection Service. The prosecution is being handled by Richard I. Mesh, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Ariz.

CASE NUMBER: CR-056-14- PHX-NVW
RELEASE NUMBER: 2007-037(Bauer & Gatlin)